



Kairos E-News #43 - Current News for Kairos Volunteers – April 2015

*May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us;
establish the work of our hands for us—
yes, establish the work of our hands.
Psalm 90:17*

Dominican Republic (Evelyn Lemly, Executive Director) – I just returned from visiting Kairos in Dominican Republic. I attended the Najayo #6 Kairos Inside Women's Weekend where 42 women were touched with the demonstration of God's love. The volunteers did an outstanding job, following the program manual and striving to do the ministry with excellence. They were eager to hear how they were doing and what they could do better each day. They expressed how they loved Kairos and doing the work and felt serving with Kairos was their calling. Several shared that one of their favorite aspects was working together with many Christian denominations to serve. I was blessed to be with this team and applaud their dedication to Kairos and mostly to serving God. Their dedication to always be gathered in prayer and turn every problem to Him was a wonderful example of allowing Jesus Christ to lead.

I also visited the Men's prison where we just completed Weekend #7. It is a prison of 9,000 inmates and is very different from any U.S. prison operation. At the same time, the impact of Kairos is wonderful, with the administration of the prison asking the teams to do more to reach the men. They are seeing a huge difference in the population where the Kairos graduates are located. The graduates shared their testimonies and also shared how important their gathering for Prayer and Share during the week was to them and how it allowed them to survive.

Please pray for our International countries doing Kairos and especially the Latin America countries, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Peru, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua, as they have additional hardships that we cannot even imagine in the U.S.

Register for the Annual Conference (Ann Kreller, Executive Administrative Assistant) – Please remember to register for the 2015 Annual Conference. It will be held in Fort Worth, TX, July 28 through August 1, 2015 at the American Airlines Training and Conferencing Center. The preliminary agenda and registration form can be found on the www.mykairos.org website: http://www.mykairos.org/conference_registration.html

Board of Directors Update (Jim Hankins, Chair) – The Board of Directors will be attending our Spring Retreat on April 24th in DeBary, Florida. It is always a challenge to find a date when all can attend because everyone on the board is actively involved with their local Kairos Weekend obligations. This is a good problem to have when you consider that this hands-on experience

keeps us very aware of the policies we set. I am thankful for the dedication shown by the members, as we normally have 100 percent attendance at our retreats.

We are looking forward to meeting with the Program Coordinators during our time in DeBary. Our Executive Director, as well as the Coordinators, have graciously agreed to give us time during their weekend to discuss the state and direction of our ministry. Our first evening will be spent in a time of spiritual development to prepare us for a full agenda the next two days.

We ask that you all remember us in your prayers as we meet and seek God's guidance for the Kairos ministry.

International Council Update (Lee Turner, International Council President) – We have worked for some time to clearly define the responsibilities and expectations of the representatives who are elected to serve on the International Council. The key role of an International Council representative is to assist the State Chapter Committee in making sure the ministry programs are running properly. So how do we do that?

The International Council, through our interactions with the International Office staff, the Board of Directors, and representatives from the other states, learns a great deal about what is working well and what isn't. The International Council has been given some talking points to address at meetings that will help raise awareness of program-related issues we are currently dealing with. Those issues/talking points have included Weekend reporting (the ministry made huge progress after raising that awareness), Advisory Council and State Chapter Committee leadership reporting, and as recently as last night during our quarterly conference call, the International Council was encouraged to look at the Advisory Council reports. We have Advisory Councils that have identified mandatory positions they feel do not need to be filled; multiple positions are being held by one person; the list goes on. Take advantage of your International Council representative's "big picture" view of the issues we face. If you are reading this, you have a role in promoting excellence in the Ministry. Be blessed in your efforts.

Men's Ministry Update (Ken Rocks, Men's Ministry Coordinator) – The very pinnacle of a Kairos Weekend is the forgiveness ceremony on Saturday night. There we ask our participants to offer up a list of those they hold in unforgiveness. This list of people could be anyone, and for any reason. It is written on a piece of dissolving rice paper that is placed in a bowl of water. In some cases, the institution may allow the list to be burned. It is a list they have worked on during the course of Saturday, and probably one they have had in their mind for a very long time. There are no good-byes, handshakes, or hugs as they leave in reverent silence for the night. Their job now is to focus on the things God has accomplished, and the work that is still being done within their hearts.

We call this their "Jacob moment," a wrestling with God for the night. That "Jacob moment" is best accomplished last thing on Saturday night so that there can be no "getting off the hook" of forgiveness. If done at any other time, you will lose the "Jacob moment" with a distraction of other activity. If done properly, the exercise is so powerful you can see the effect on the faces of the participants as they arrive on Sunday morning. If they look like they have been up all night, you may think a silent "Hallelujah" as they embrace the pinnacle moment of God's everlasting forgiveness. Please consider the proper timing of the "Jacob moment" on the Weekend. It may be the only one they ever have, and you are in a position to place it perfectly. Amen!

Women's Ministry Update (Gina Brockmeyer, Women's Ministry Coordinator) – Every day the program coordinators answer questions about Weekend Leaders and/or the leadership track or leadership qualifications for Kairos Inside, Kairos Outside, and Kairos Torch Weekends.

Every Kairos Weekend is led by a Weekend Leader. The Weekend Leader is a lay person who is prayerfully selected by the local Kairos Advisory Council and approved by the State Chapter Committee. Members of the clergy are not eligible to lead a Kairos Weekend. We are a lay-led ministry.

New leaders don't just magically appear. They must be identified, developed, and trained, and the local Advisory Council is responsible for leadership development. Kairos Weekend leaders are expected to have undergone significant preparation for their task, and they are responsible for prayerfully selecting and preparing their team in accordance with the Kairos methods outlined in the Program Manual. Weekend Leaders are also guided by the Leader Tools provided by Kairos Prison Ministry International. These tools include Advanced Kairos Training, and EZRA. Weekend Leaders should attend Advanced Kairos Training 12-24 months before they lead their Weekend, and can order EZRA following their Advanced Kairos Training. Leaders can only lead once, and if they have led a Weekend in one program, they are prohibited from leading a Weekend in another program.

Weekend leaders have primary authority over their team. They are expected, as a matter of obedience, to be faithful to the Kairos "Riverbanks" and to pass an understanding of the "Riverbanks" on to their team so they may grow in their understanding of the Kairos program. By doing this, Weekend leaders ensure that their team members are obedient to the Department of Corrections, to the Kairos Method, to the Kairos Board, to the local Advisory Council, to the Team Leadership, and to way of life of Christ and His call to love God and to love others.

Please join me in praying for another #1 Kairos Inside women's Weekend. FMC-W #1 is scheduled for June 11-14, 2015 in Ohio. The Weekend will be led by Sue Barton.

Kairos Torch Update (Kevin Resnover, Youth Ministries Coordinator) – I am excited to announce that Kairos Torch has a signed Memorandum of Understanding in our first Youth Correctional Facility in the state of Maryland. A November Weekend is being planned at the Silver Oak Academy in Keymer, Maryland. Please keep this new Advisory Council and the team members in your prayers.

Volunteer and Guest Recruitment Committee Update (Thomas Becker) – I have served on Kairos teams where the importance of team formation meetings was overlooked. The minimum team formation requirement was not met, comprising only about 25 hours' total time. The meetings were poorly planned, redundant in topic, and lacked meaningful substance. No wonder it was a constant struggle to recruit and retain new volunteers. There was not a genuine commitment to the ministry, and I was not motivated to continue with this group.

I also recall serving on other teams that would meet the entire 36 hours and always had 25 percent new volunteers at the meetings. Meeting attendance was consistently 75 percent or better, and they were full of spiritual activities, security training, team training, logistics updates, music and worship, and, of course, Kairos foundations. The new volunteers observed the veteran

volunteers as genuine servants exhibiting Love, Sacrifice, Obedience, and Stewardship. As a result, they had a desire to do likewise and join the sacrificial effort of the ministry. They recognized their purpose in the ministry, and they would commit to return and serve again.

If we are struggling with recruitment and retention, then perhaps we need to look at ourselves. Are we obedient to the Program Manual during team formation and during the Weekend? Are we excited to be at team formation meetings? Do we hold each other accountable in our attendance? Can we improve the quality of our team formation meetings? Let's be ever prayerful for ways to improve our volunteer base. Moreover, let's remember to serve with Love, Sacrifice, Obedience, and Stewardship.

New Excellence Initiative (Program Excellence Committee) – As many of you have now seen, there is a new Excellence Initiative system in place. However, there seems to be a lot of confusion, and we hope to clear that up with this article. Many have wondered why Kairos needs this information. Essentially, the information is more valuable to each Advisory Council. It gives them the information that they will need to improve their Weekends so they run smoothly and consistently. This is true for the State Committee also. And Kairos as a whole also needs the information to see what problems there may be for each program, as well as help them answer questions of prospective donors and others inquiring about our ministry like, "How do you track your progress and make sure that the program is carried out consistently?"

Prior to the first training session, it would be wise for Weekend observers to pull the appropriate survey from the Kairos website download area at <http://www.mykairos.org/downloads.html>. This way it won't have to be done at the last minute. It is still true that all the questions must be answered, with any "No" questions having a comment made. Please print, write, or type legibly so the State Chair/designee can read what has been written when they call you to discuss the report before they enter it into the system. Please look at http://www.mykairos.org/docs/kpmi/ei_flowchart.pdf for a detailed explanation.

New on the Website – With the start of the new ministry year, there are many new and familiar faces stepping in to fill positions on State Committees. Have those updates been made on the MyKairos website? Take a moment and visit <http://www.mykairos.org/directory5.html> to see if the information is current for your state. If the information is not current, please update your state information by using the *Click Here To Update This Page* button from the MyKairos "Where We Serve" information.

Check Out this New Video – Kairos of Virginia has a brand new video and we've posted it on the http://www.mykairos.org/news_videos.html page. It's called **God's Special Time**. There is a link to download the video for offline viewing, but it is VERY large and will take some time to download. Here's the direct YouTube link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H_Xok79tjx4&t=64

The description says in part: *A video highlighting the work and impact of Kairos Prison Ministry in the Commonwealth of Virginia from the perspective of those who have participated in a Kairos Weekend, volunteers, and Department of Corrections officials.*

Is Your Weekend Listed? – If your upcoming Spring 2015 Weekend is not listed on the Kairos Kalendar, complete the electronic registration on the www.MyKairos.org website so we can

adequately publicize your weekend. **This is especially important for #1 Weekends.** We create a banner-type advertisement especially for those #1 Weekends.

Reporting Weekends – Please focus on reporting the upcoming Weekends on MyKairos.org under “Register Weekend Info” on the left-side menu. The ministry covers the Weekends in prayer, the team receives Agape from communities, and the ministry knows of the Weekends for reporting. This is an area where we need to take a step forward in better communications and sharing of Weekends.

Spanish Translation of the E-News – A Spanish translation of E-News (E-Noticias) is also published monthly. If you would like to view previous issues or subscribe to future E-News in Spanish, please go to: http://www.mykairos.org/news_enevs-sp.html

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